provided by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to Meghalaya for taking up plantation activities under its centrally sponsored schemes; *viz.* Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme (IAEPS), Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme (AOFFPS) and Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plant Scheme (NTFP), during the last five years is given in Statement (*See* below). During the Ninth Plan projects under these schemes have been sanctioned for a period of 4-5 years. Funds released in each financial year are dependent on the progress of projects and utilisation of funds in the preceding year. The Ministry of Environemnt and Forests has requested the State Government of Meghalaya from time to time to improve the utilisation of funds provided under the above schemes.

Statement

Central assistance provided by the Ministry of Environment and forests to Meghalaya for taking up plantation activities under its centrally sponsored schemes, *viz.* Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme (IAEPS), Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme (AOFFPS) and Conservation and Development and Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme (NTFP), during the last five years.

Financial Year	Funds allocated (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	245.13
1996-97	140.95
1997-98	100.00
1998-99	28.83
1999-2000	67.27
TOTAL:	582.18

Deputationists on Scientific Posts in the Ministry of Environment and Forests

5065. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientific post in the Ministry of Environment and Forests are increasingly being filled by persons on deputation from non-scientific services;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the total number of scientists in the Ministry at the Delhi Headquarters from 1989 to 1999, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Total number of Scientists in the Ministry at the Delhi Headquarters from 1989 to 1999 year-wise is as under:—

1989	—	75
1990	—	81
1991	—	79
1992	—	81
1993	—	75
1994	—	73
1995	—	72
1996	—	73
1997	—	73
1998	—	72
1999	—	70

Environment Protection measures in Kerala

5066. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the various measures being taken by Government of Kerala for environment protection, like prohibition of smoking in public places, including trains;

(b) whether Kerala High Court has directed the State Government to issue orders prohibiting chewing the Pan in public offices;

(c) whether Government propose to study in detail the various environment protection measures of Kerala; and

(d) if so, whether Government would evolve schemes at national level on environmental protection?